[6th March 1958

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. CHAIRMAN *RE* RECEIPT OF AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNMENT BILLS.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that I have fixed 5 p.m. on Friday, the 7th March 1958, as the time and date up to which amendments to the following Government Bills will be received :—

(1) The Madras Bhoodan Yagna Bill, 1957 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 1957).

(2) The Madras Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1958 (L.C. Bill No. 1 of 1958).

III.—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1958–59—*cont.*

3-10 p.m. * DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Mr. Chairman, ever since I entered the Council on its reconstitution after the War, I have been waiting patiently year after year to see whether the Finance Minister of the day would introduce a Budget with no fresh taxes. I thought I might perhaps imitate the Crown Prosecutor who, on certain occasions, presented White Gloves to the Hon. Judge trying Sessions cases, and I too might have the fortune of handing similar White Gloves to the Hon. the Minister for Finance. So far, I have been denied that privilege. I doubt whether I will get that privilege at all, as my term as Member is coming to a close. Whenever taxation proposals are brought forward by the Government, the question is necessarily asked by Members of this House—not merely those who are sitting on this side—whether further taxation is necessary, whether it is equitable and whether it can be shared in a manner that will certainly mean that no particular section is heavily hit. These are the general principles that should underlie taxation measures wherever they may be introduced. I propose to examine the present proposals in the light of certain questions I shall pose for myself.

Is taxation necessary? The Hon. the Leader of the House has, in a very brief but very lucid statement, mentioned that while there was a deficit of Rs. 333 lakhs when the Budget was presented last year, after taking into account the taxes then introduced, there is now a surplus of five lakhs of rupees. Taking into account the award of the Finance Commission, the excess income is only something like Rs. 164 lakhs. Yet, the deficit has been converted into a surplus. Now, one may ask how this windfall came. As I read the Budget estimates and the revised estimates, as given in this very valuable book, I see that, for the year 1957–58, the Budget estimate under the head "Land Revenue" was Rs. 585 lakhs whereas the revised estimate has come to Rs. 628 lakhs. Under "Stamps," the Budget estimate was Rs. 341 lakhs whereas the revised estimate has come to Rs. 352 lakhs. So also, under "Forests", the Budget